

WE CLAIM:

1 1. A telephone system for connecting callers and users, comprising:
2 user-specifiable means for defining at least one filter for filtering
3 incoming calls and taking user-definable responses on incoming calls that
4 satisfy the requirements of said at least one filter, in which:
5 the user specifies a profile;
6 the user has the option of modifying parameters of the specified profile,
7 including specifying at least one filter in the profile and specifying user-
8 specifiable parameters thereof;
9 the system includes means for guiding the user through a setup sequence;
10 and
11 the telephone system includes means for applying the user-specified
12 profiles.

1 2. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
2 claim 1, in which:
3 at least one profile depends on the status of the user, selected by the user
4 from a list of at least two profiles, with a set of responses correlated with
5 the status specified in the selected profile.

1 3. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
2 claim 2, in which:
3 at least one profile includes at least two responses that depend on the time
4 zone in which the user is located and the time of day in that time zone.

1 4. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to

2 claim 1, in which:
3 at least one profile has at least two responses that are activated according
4 to the time of day.

5 5. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
6 claim 4, in which:
7 at least two responses that are activated according to the time of day
8 depend on the user's normal working hours and the user's normal sleeping
9 hours.

1 6. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
2 claim 1, in which:
3 at least one profile depends on the time zone in which the user is located.

1 7. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
2 claim 6, in which:
3 the system identifies the time zone of the location of the user and
4 automatically applies a profile if the time zone of the user corresponds to
5 the time zone in the profile.

1 8. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
2 claim 6, in which:
3 different profiles apply to Europe, Asia and the American continents.

1 9. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
2 claim 1, in which:
3 at least two filters apply a different response to an incoming call of the
4 same category.

1 10. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
2 claim 1, in which:
3 the system identifies the location of the user.

1 11. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
2 claim 1, in which:
3 calls that satisfy a specified criterion pass through the filter even if they
4 do not satisfy another criterion of the filter.

1 12. A telephone system for connecting callers and users according to
2 claim 1, in which:
3 the user specifies a set of at least one response to at least one filter.

1 13. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium
2 readable by a computer, the medium embodying instructions executable
3 by the computer for performing method steps in a telephone system for
4 connecting callers and users, comprising:
5 defining at least one filter for filtering incoming calls and taking user-
6 definable responses on incoming calls that satisfy the requirements of
7 said at least one filter, in which:
8 the user specifies a profile;
9 the user has the option of modifying parameters of the specified profile,
10 including specifying at least one filter in the profile and specifying user-
11 specifiable parameters thereof;
12 the system includes means for guiding the user through a setup sequence;
13 and
14 applying the user-specified profiles.

1 14. An article of manufacture according to claim 13, in which:
2 at least one profile depends on the status of the user, selected by the user
3 from a list of at least two profiles, with a set of responses correlated with
4 the status specified in the selected profile.

1 15. An article of manufacture according to claim 14, in which:
2 at least one profile includes at least two responses that depend on the time
3 zone in which the user is located and the time of day in that time zone.

1 16. An article of manufacture according to claim 13, in which:
2 at least one profile has at least two responses that are activated according
3 to the time of day.

1 17. An article of manufacture according to claim 16, in which:
2 at least two responses that are activated according to the time of day
3 depend on the user's normal working hours and the user's normal sleeping
4 hours.

1 18. An article of manufacture according to claim 13, in which:
2 at least one profile depends on the time zone in which the user is located.

1 19. An article of manufacture according to claim 18, in which:
2 the system identifies the time zone of the location of the user and
3 automatically applies a profile if the time zone of the user corresponds to
4 the time zone in the profile.

1 20. An article of manufacture according to claim 18, in which:

2 different profiles apply to Europe, Asia and the American continents.

1 21. An article of manufacture according to claim 13, in which:
2 at least two filters apply a different response to an incoming call of the
3 same category.

1 22. An article of manufacture according to claim 13, in which:
2 the system identifies the location of the user.

1 23. An article of manufacture according to claim 13, in which:
2 calls that satisfy a specified criterion pass through the filter even if they
3 do not satisfy another criterion of the filter.